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BLAINE, THE ORIGINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

REV. J. H. ECOR, D.D.

What, then, shall engage our Pan-American Congress? First and absorbingly questions of interstate relations; questions of mutual support and counsel; a solemn "league and covenant" that war shall never again darken this continent with his iron wings. Just here a bit of history is suggestive.

By one of those little historic revenges, which would seem to indicate that human events are not left to drift like sand into chance combinations, the very man in whose capacious brain this Pan-American Congress originated is now made its president. I remember well sitting by his side some years ago when the press of the country was resounding with cries of "Jingoism;" "Hair-brained schemes of foreign conquest;" "A wild South American policy," and the like. He said, with an undertone of bitterness: "If ever a project was born of a pure principle and propounded with a single and honorable purpose, that project was what is now being traduced as my policy of Jingoism and selfish national aggrandizement. *The vision that first rose before my mind was this great New World, with its untold possibilities in the future, forever secured against the ravages and horrors of war.* All questions of commercial union came afterwards as corollaries to that main proposition." What scheme could more worthily challenge the heart and brain of a statesman than a plan to deliver this New World from the ancient curse which has been the blight and destruction of the nations from the beginning?

After these years of the noise and dust of obloquy and perverse interpretation and falsehood, the vision has dawned again; and lo, by common consent, the President of the great Congress, its shaping genius, is the very man whose clairvoyant eyes were first visited by its light. This looks very much as if Providence would have a serious part in the Congress. You are to secure as an unalterable policy among all the States of this new world; peace by brotherly arbitration; not peace after the exhaustion and blood-stained victories of war. When these many great States, with a future which no prophet dare utter, are bound together in a broad statesmanlike Christian policy of mutual understanding and good will the petty questions of the market get themselves solved by simply falling into their inevitable place under the overmastering principles of National Comity.—*The Independent*.

Many of the governor's staff (Massachusetts) belted on their swords for the first time Thursday, Jan. 2. Let them resolve never to draw them without cause nor sheathe them with dishonor. Valor is never greater than when ruled by mercy. In the very rush and fury of the cattle show let them remember that the true warrior is always merciful.—*Boston Transcript*.

"A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the best of men;"
So from these lines it would appear
That those who do at nonsense sneer.
And curl the lip, no matter when,
Are plainly not the best of men.

—*Boston Courier*.

HELP THE POOR BUT ON CONDITIONS.

Mr. A. F. Cox, a shoe manufacturer in Portland, Me., was once appealed to, to contribute for the purpose of assisting people who were suffering from the want of bread. He said, "Yes, I will contribute. If you will find any man in Portland who does not keep a dog, or one who does not use rum or tobacco, who is in want of bread, I will give him a sack of flour and a bushel of meal."

The offer was made public by some one, and at a meeting in the city hall the question was asked by a citizen: "How long will you stand to that?" He replied that he would stand to it to the extent of a hundred sacks of flour and a hundred bushels of meal. But to everybody's surprise, not a single person has ever appeared to claim the flour and meal.

This incident gives some little insight into the sources of some of the want and misery of our great cities; and it may set some poor persons thinking as to the cause of some of the poverty concerning which men complain. There is bread enough and to spare. It is waste that makes want; and when the waste is ended, the want will usually vanish with it.—*Safeguard*.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF TOBACCO.

Judge Kelley, of Pennsylvania, familiarly known in Congress as the "Father of the House" because of his long continuous service in that body, died Jan. 8, 1890. He has been suffering for five years from an irritation on the inside of the right lower jaw caused by an incessant use of tobacco. In Paris, after consultation with the most skillful surgeons, he underwent the severe operation of removing the inflamed parts. The treatment was successful, and in two or three months the parts operated upon entirely healed up. For two years there being no recurrence of the trouble, it was supposed that the threatened disease had been eradicated. Last spring the irritation showed signs of reappearance, and since that time the health of the venerable statesman has been steadily failing. A cancer rapidly developed. The origin of the disease in the use of tobacco has often been admitted by the judge. Upon one occasion, in conversing with a young friend, referring to this subject, he said that for twenty years he had never retired without a piece of tobacco in his mouth.

This conspicuous example is added to the cases of General Grant and the Emperor Frederick, as if to summon the attention of the civilized world to tobacco as well as to alcohol.

Give us war ships, and we shall have wars. The cost of maintaining these useless instruments of destruction will be enormous. Secretary Tracy's suggestion that we build fast ships for peaceful commerce, which could be made cruisers if ever required for such purposes, is admirable, and should be adopted; but no additional war ships proper should be built for the navy.—*Andrew Carnegie, in Independent*.

The Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia, of which A. H. Love is the wide-awake President, exhibited certain valuable peace and arbitration publications at the Paris Exposition, and has received recognition by a gold medal.